

Worm Power Liquid Extract Reduced Rate Trial

Worm Power Liquid Extract (WPLE) has been successful for increasing strawberry yields. This study evaluated lowered gallons per acre (GPA) rates to determine if WPLE could still increase yields for a standard grower program. Short-day strawberry cultivars were planted mid-October in Dover, Florida, where soil was 93% sand and contained less than 1% organic matter. Strawberries were harvested nine times from December to February.

Treatments:

- 1. Untreated Control
- 2. 1 GPA WPLE bi-weekly during the season.
- 3. 5 GPA WPLE at 4 growth stage timings.
- 4. 2 GPA WPLE monthly during the season.

Reduced rates of WPLE were most effective when applied throughout the growing season, rather than at specific growth stages. Calculated strawberry yield increased the most when applied at 2 GPA monthly followed by the 1 GPA bi-weekly rate.



2 GPA of WPLE applied monthly throughout the season increased yield by **173** flats, or a **15%** yield increase per acre of strawberries. Applications of 1 GPA of WPLE bi-weekly throughout the season increased the yield by **154** flats per acre resulting in a **13.5%** increase in strawberry yield. Both season long applications used a total of 8 gallons of WPLE. The eighth application of Treatment 2 was made five days before the final harvest. For cost efficiency, treatment should be stopped if the final harvest is within one week.

Microbes in WPLE help mobilize nutrients and prepare plants to better handle stress. The increase in yield with full season applications shows that strawberry plants benefit most from microbes throughout the season due to constant stress of fruit production and demand for nutrients. Worm Power Liquid Extract helps growers fill the gaps for plant needs throughout the season.

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